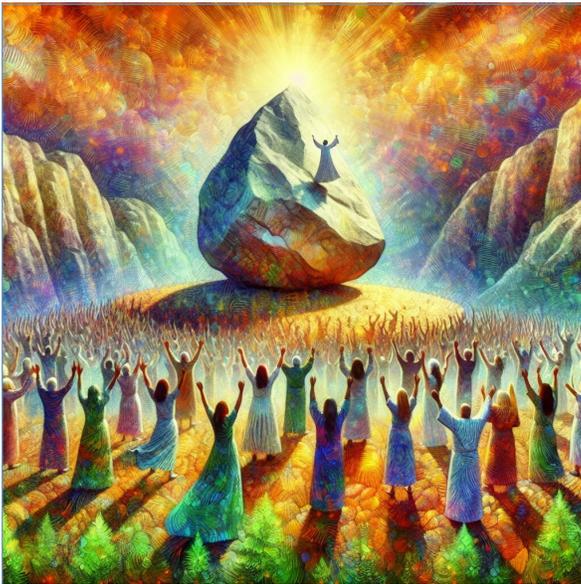


# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



*Bible Art*

Hello friends,

To begin, allow me to address an important question: “What on Earth does ‘calumniated’ mean?” Now that I’ve had a fourth person ask this question this week, I can reveal to you that *every single* time I take a person or group through the Litany of Humility the same question comes up – you are not alone, and I think you’re in pretty good company. To calumniate somebody is to speak poorly about them – slander, defamation, character assassination, gossip – they all fit into this theme. In the first place this is always a gut check that any community/community member needs to ask: “how much does gossip/defamation/slander, etc., take a place in my/our conversations?” I have witnessed and participated in a few community cancers in my time, and I find few more damaging than gossip/backbiting/calumny. Wherever we experience it, let’s just cut it out. Anyway, the Litany of Humility’s version is not focused on me doing the slandering/calumniating but on me being the one slandered/calumniated. Like the whole prayer, this “from the fear of being calumniated, deliver me O Jesus” is focusing on my own fear/enslavement to the avoidance of being such a target – perhaps entrusting to the Lord for Him to take care of my need to get everything right and present a spotless external image. It’s not saying, “let me be calumniated, Lord,” but “let me not be so worked up with anxiety about calumination.” Anyway, “calumination.” Fun word.

In Diocesan news, the Bishop has sent out a special request to the priests asking us to celebrate two special Masses on a regular basis: one, a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, and two, a Mass for the needs of the Church, especially using one of my favorite Eucharistic Prayers, “the Church on the Path of Unity.” By regular he means “monthly, or even weekly if the liturgical calendar (*continued on page 2*)

## *Holy Week Schedule*

Holy Thursday, 5:15 PM Mass;  
Adoration following  
until midnight/Viroqua  
Good Friday, 12:10 PM/Viroqua  
3:00 PM/Coon Valley  
Holy Saturday, 8:30 PM/Viroqua  
Easter Sunday, 8:00 AM/Coon Valley  
10:30 AM/Viroqua

**March 8, 2026**

**3rd Sunday of Lent**

*Readings are in the hymnal,  
#1022*

### **Eucharist**

**Saturdays** - 6:30 PM  
**Sundays** - 10:30 AM  
**Wednesday** - 5:15 PM  
**Fridays** - 8:00 AM

### **Livestreaming Mass**

[www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley)

### **Diocese of La Crosse**

#### **Televised Mass on**

**Channel 19, Sunday, 9:30 AM**

### **Pastoral Visits:**

Please contact the parish office if you or a loved one is in need of a pastoral visit.

Let us know if you would like to be remembered in our parish’s public prayers.

### **Baptism**

Call the parish office for information and scheduling.

### **Confession**

Sat. 5:45 PM, Sun. 9:45 AM,  
Wed. 5:45 PM during Adoration

### **Rosary:**

The Holy Rosary is prayed 30 minutes before all Masses

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

1st Friday each month after Mass  
Benediction at 10 AM;  
Every Tuesday 4:30 PM in CV  
Every Wednesday 5:45 PM

### **Giving:**

On-line -

<https://diolc.org/annunciation-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary-parish-viroqua>

### **Parish Offices**

OPEN: MTWF- 8 AM-4 PM

Parish Website [www.stmaryviroqua.org](http://www.stmaryviroqua.org); Parish Fax (608) 299-3721

Father Joseph M. Richards, Pastor, (608) 606-9787; Deacon Tony Shay; Diana Hernandez-Torres, Sacristan

Pat Obernberger, Coordinator of Ongoing Formation, [stmaryformation@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryformation@mwt.net); (608) 637-7711

Beth Laurdan, Music Director, [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net); (608) 637-7711; Tom Leis, Librarian, [saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com)

Fran Campbell, Secretary/Bookkeeper, [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net), (608) 637-7711; Parish Kitchen (608) 637-7878

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

# March 8, 2026

*(continued from page 1)* allows.” I’m not sure exactly what this looks like in our own schedules (we’ll figure that out), but it strongly indicates the Bishop’s Eucharistic focus and his invitation to the Holy Spirit to lead us in the middle of any mission and restructuring work we encounter. We aren’t hearing much with that in our corner of the Diocese right now, but deanery-by-deanery work is starting to unfold – keep your ears open and feel free to ever pick my brain about things. I’ll answer as well as I can; and if you ask something I can’t answer, I’ll just get real quiet all of a sudden. Anyhow, these Masses. I’ll let the Bishop say it, as he says it best: “The lion’s share of our sanctification takes place through the sacraments, most especially at the Mass. It is a sacrificial and sacramental process: like the bread and wine, we are, by the Holy Spirit, transformed into something we were not before. By celebrating these two special Masses regularly, we can as a diocese discern God’s plan for us, deepen our understanding of the pivot from maintenance to mission, and promote eucharistic living. The critical thing is to be docile to the Father’s plan and allow the Holy Spirit to remake the Diocese of La Crosse in the image and likeness of Christ.”

God bless you all,

Fr. Joe

**Kitchen cleaning day: *Reminder*** - we will be deep cleaning the parish kitchen this coming **Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00 pm**. All are welcome. Cleaning products will be provided. If you prefer to use gloves, please plan to bring your own. Many hands make light work - see you there!

Hello, Parish Family! You may remember a while back, we invited the women of our two parishes to pray the **Novena to St. Joseph** together for the men and boys of our parishes. With **St. Joseph's feast day** coming up on **March 19<sup>th</sup>**, we have the opportunity to pray it again together from **Wednesday, March 11, to end on the 19<sup>th</sup>**. This time, all are invited to pray it together, whether that's you as an individual or a whole family praying together. The primary intention this time will be for Father Joe as our pastor, but feel free to add your own personal intentions to the novena as well. You can find copies in the gathering space. I hope that you will join us in this time of prayer! God bless you!

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**PCCW News:** The PCCW is interested in transitioning it’s responsibilities within the parish, a bit. One piece of that transition is the Funeral Luncheon Ministry. When a funeral mass is held in our parish, the family of the deceased is given the option to have the parish provide a luncheon for them after the funeral. It’s a beautiful gift our parish gives to our parish family members who have lost someone. The PCCW circles have carried this ministry faithfully and unfailingly for as long as I can remember and what a gift it’s been! However, now is the time for the broader parish to help carry this ministry into the future. A new Funeral Luncheon Ministry Group is being established. **All men and women of the parish are invited to join.**

If you would like to be a part of this ministry group there are several different ways you can serve. The areas of service include setting up and food prep, serving at the luncheon, dishes/cleanup crew and/or providing food (a salad or dessert). Please prayerfully consider whether this important parish ministry is something you are called to do. If it is, there is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space. Please leave your name, contact information and preference for communication. Alternatively, if you’d prefer, you can contact Julie Moore directly through email [juliemoore29@gmail.com](mailto:juliemoore29@gmail.com) or via text/call at 307-359-2322.

**Parish women/circle members please note:** The circles will continue to provide the funeral lunches until this new group is in place. **And** your name will NOT automatically be added to the new group list. If you’re interested in continuing to help with funeral luncheons, you’ll need to let us know that by signing up.

# March 8, 2026

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Feb. 23-Mar. 1, 2026

Offertory: \$4,171.00

Total: \$4,171.00

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

January E-gifts: \$2,701.29

THANK YOU!

## 2025-2026

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$36,920.00

Received to date: \$33,078.87

Donors: 69

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 7 March, 6:30 PM +Renee Timmerman**

(Timmerman Family)

**Sunday, 8 March, 10:30 AM Family of Bill Chart**

(Darlene Chart)

**Wednesday, 11 March, 5:15 PM +Ambrose Timmerman**

(Timmerman Family)

**Friday, 13 March, 8:00 AM +Mary Ellen Hatton**

(Alvin Felch)

**Saturday, 14 March, 6:30 PM People of the Annunciation & St. Mary's Parishes**

**Sunday, 15 March, 10:30 AM +Ione Hauser**

(Robert Hauser)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**Sunday, 8 March, 9:00-10:15 AM Encounter Class meeting in the pie room**

**Sunday, 8 March, 9:00-10:15 AM Decision Point in confirmation basement classroom**

**Sunday, 8 March, 5:30 PM Choir rehearsal**

**Sunday, 8 March, 11:45 AM-12:45 PM First Communion Class in basement classroom**

**Sunday, 8 March, 11:45 AM-1:00 PM "Fratelli Tutti" discussion in confirmation basement classroom**

**Tuesday, 10 March, 3:30-4:45 PM Middle School Girls' Bible Study in the sitting room - CANCELLED**

**Tuesday, 10 March, 5:00-7:00 PM GriefShare in Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 11 March, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in Marian Hall**

**Wednesday, 11 March, 1:00 PM Parish Kitchen Cleaning Day!**

**Thursday, 12 March, 6:00 PM Finance Council meeting in the parish library**

**Thursday, 12 March, 6:30-8:00 PM "Fratelli Tutti" discussion in confirmation basement classroom**

**Friday, 13 March, 5:15 PM Stations of the Cross**

**Friday, 13 March, 6:00-6:45 PM Soup Supper & Reflection on the Stations of the Cross in Marian Hall**

**Saturday, 14 March, 12:00-2:00 PM Well-read Moms in the sitting room**

**Saturday, 14 March, 5:30 PM Choir rehearsal**

**Sunday, 15 March, Family of Faith Children's Activity in Coon Valley - TBD**

**Sunday, 15 March, 9:00-10:15 AM Confirmation Class in confirmation basement classroom & Marian Hall**

**Sunday, 15 March, 9:00-10:15 AM Decision Point in parish library**

**Sunday, 15 March, 11:45 AM-1:00 PM "Fratelli Tutti" discussion in confirmation basement classroom**

**Sunday, 15 March, 11:45 AM-12:45 PM First Communion Class in basement classroom**

**Sunday-Friday, 15 March-20 March, following Sunday Mass, Fr. Joe out of state**

## Ministry Schedule

**Sat., Mar. 14, 6:30 PM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Reid Fisher Altar Server

Lane Fisher Altar Server

NOT FILLED Lector

**Sun., Mar. 15, 10:30 AM**

Dcn. Anthony Shay Eucharistic Minister

Basil Stevenson Altar Server

Pearl Stevenson Altar Server

Stephen Lambert Lector

**If not able to serve as scheduled, please request a sub through MSP. Thank you!**

The contemplative reading group is postponing discussion of *Honey and Salt: Selected Writings of Bernard of Clairvaux* from **February 22, to April 19, from 12:00-1:30 PM**, as this currently overlaps with the Lenten discussion of "Fratelli Tutti." More time to read the book and join us!

The PCCW and Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish are both offering a \$500 scholarship to two graduating seniors of our parish. Scholarship applications can be picked up in the gathering space or downloaded from the parish website, [www.stmaryparish.org](http://www.stmaryparish.org). Scholarship applications are due in the parish office by **Wednesday, April 15**.

**Now Enrolling at Sacred Heart School -** Discover the difference at Sacred Heart School, where faith and learning grow together. We proudly serve students in **Pre-K through 8th grade** in a Christ-centered environment rooted in Charity, Truth, and Excellence. At Sacred Heart, we believe in skills over standards, helping students build confidence, character, and a strong foundation for life. Schedule a tour or call 608-654-7733 to learn more today!

## Pastoral Council Members

Kris Brueggen  
Phyllis Krause  
David Hall

Cathy Poshepny  
Jenny Leum  
Dcn. Tony Shay

Dennis Vinger

Our Pastoral Council is here to serve. They help us discern the needs of our community and the call of the Spirit in our time. If you wish to speak with a Council member about your concerns., please contact the parish office - 608-637-7711 or [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net).

Please join us for **Grief Share**, where you can find comfort, strength, and hope! If there is someone you know who may benefit from Grief Share, please invite him or her to attend. All are welcome!

**When:** Tuesdays 5:00 - 7:00 pm

**March 10th through June 2nd, 2026**

**Where:** Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church  
400 Congress Ave.  
Viroqua, WI 54665

**Facilitators:** Janet Olmstead, AAGC Certified Grief Counselor (608) 790-4543  
Deacon Anthony Shay, Ed. D, LPC, CRC

**Registration Fee:** \$20.00

Financial assistance available as needed

**To Register:** contact the church office at 608-637-7711, email [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net), or go to the website at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org)



### Kickapoo Counseling

110 N. Main Street  
Westby, WI 54667  
608-634-2365

[info@kickapoo-counseling.com](mailto:info@kickapoo-counseling.com)

If you would like to advertise on this page, please contact 608-637-7711

### WESTBY LOCKER & MEATS

The Sausage & Meat Shop  
Rosanne & Rod Aspenson  
402 N. Main St., Westby, WI 54665  
[meatsusa@mwt.net](mailto:meatsusa@mwt.net)  
608-634-4515



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